roof is flat, and is continued to the points of the cornices. A Roman archway connects the lodge with adjacent buildings. The Palatial style is new in the north. In the interior of the building a handsome vestibule leads to the grand staircase, which has a centre and two side flights. The staircase is of stone, with a massive balustrade, and lighted from a Venetian window opposite the entrance. The ceiling is lofty. At night it is lighted by a globe of about 2 feet diameter. Ascending the staircase, wide folding-doors open into the grand hall, which is 56 feet in length by 26 feet in breadth. The height is 22 feet. The room is lighted by twelve classic female figures, of life size, bending from the roof, six on each side, and appearing to support the ceiling, while they each hold suspended in their hands two large globes containing gasiliers. From the centre hangs a chandelier, containing twelve globes similar to those hung round the room, and ornamented with a profusion of lustres. The ceiling is pannelled with the egg-and-dart ornament. The walls are of a warm stone-colour; the ceiling, figures, and finishings all white. The orchestra is above the entrance to the hall, with a balustrade of white on a ground of crimson cloth, and supported with semblance of brackets and trusses. The windows are all hung with crimson curtains and gilt cornices. The centre window, fronting the entrance, is filled in on three sides with large mirrors the full height. The south end of the hall is occupied by a full-length portrait of the lady patroness of the lodge. The mantelpiece is of Peterhead granite, polished, and is surmounted at each end by a classic figure. A door from the upper end of the hall opens into the refreshment-room. This room is 30 feet long by 20 feet broad, and contains three windows. It is done up in the same style as the hall. On the other side of the staircase is the ladies' retiring-room of a smaller size.

INTRAMURAL BARRACKS.

Unless troops quartered in cities are billetted on the inhabitants, there needs must be barracks for their accommodation; so in this free country, as elsewhere, we find that there are numerous buildings with that designation, but very few with any pretensions to architectural effect, and many of them wholly inappropriate for the object. The Guards' barrack, in Birdcage-walk, is the best in appearance, and, for its vicinity to the palace and park, the best in position; but, as for those at Charing-cross and Portman-street, nothing could be worse devised for the accommodation of the men, or for the convenience of the citizens. Into Portman-street are crammed and jammed many troops, within a sunken mews, overtopped and surrounded by houses looking into the drill-yard—a nuisance to the neighbourhood—and an intramural incarceration for the men, as unwholesome to the health of the latter as to the comfort and morality of the former. St. Martin's, though a solid structure, is little less noxious; and on the nuisance of the old caserne for two troops of Horse Guards at Knightsbridge, public opinion has of late been fully expressed through the press.

The proper place for Horse-guards would be in the outskirts, say three or four miles distant, at Wormwood Scrubs, near to a parade ground; and the Foot-guards, save only two or three companies for state service, might also be advantageously removed, both as regards the health of the soldier and the service of the Metropolis.

At the St. James's-park Barrack there is ample room for all the household troops required for ordinary occasions; and there large additions are in progress for the accommodation of 400 more, while there yet remains space for the construction of buildings large enough to lodge the whole of the Foot-guards, a locality which is certainly much more suitable for the prætorians of royalty. As to all other purposes beyond mounting a few sentinels and making up processional pomps, four miles from the centre would be in every sense better.

Now that Royalty has deserted Kensington Palace, no one can divine the use of retaining a light troop in that quarter, nor of keeping up the mean and unsightly sheds which still defile that agreeable suburb.

The deformity still maintained in the very centre of Hyde-park for the sergeant's guard on duty there, is an absurdity and outrage on common sense, and the respect due from the Government to the people. The only possible occasion for any military quarter here is to relieve two sentinels who protect the powder magazine—obstinately retained there, possibly, to keep the populace in wholesome terror of a blow up, which might volatilise the Crystal Palace, and with it some thousand houses!

St. John's Wood and Albany-street Barracks are perhaps not very objectionable, although the latter is too much encircled by a dense population; yet one might think these would supply sentinels enough and relief-guards enough for the few Governmental stations so honoured. It is well known by military men, and equally well imparted by them to the public, that a distance of seven or ten miles (at Hounslow, for instance), would be near enough for regimental stations. Electric telegraphs and railroads might even allow of a farther removal, since so short a march might admit of the collection of troops to a given point, at the notice of one hour and a half.

Lastly, as to the style of external architecture, there is a miserable exhibition in all the existing barracks, while at the same time all, without exception, are constructed on a plan as incommodious for the men and their adherents, as they are censurable in a sanitary point of view. The expense of a building is enhanced but little by attention to external symmetry and moderate ornament: the utility is vastly increased by a judiciously-arranged plan. In the plan and design of those barracks in progress the foregoing remarks are worthy of a thought. Why are not architects employed?

QUONDAM.

THE EDINBURGH ABATTOIRS.

The new abattoirs, designed by the city architect, approach completion, and are to be occupied at Whitsunday. The façade, as described by the local *Post*, is ornamented with projecting corbels of bullocks' heads, above the two archways which compose the front, and the spans of which are supported, at the points from which they spring, on rows of kneeling oxen, as caryatides. The porter's office is immediately behind the façade and the abbatoirs are arranged in the rear. A line of causeway penetrates to the present boundary wall on the Lochrin property, three out of four acres of which have been covered with buildings, the builder's contract for which alone amounts to 8,000*l*. This street of slaughter-houses is lined on the one hand by three blocks of killing houses for cattle and sheep, of the respective lengths of 100, 139, and 100 feet each. The total number of killing booths for cattle and sheep, arranged either in thorough lines or transverse blocks, is forty-two. In the slated roofing ventilation is secured by a raised ridge, with double louvre frames running from end to end of each block of building, in addition to the air slits and louvred windows in the side-walls. Large sky-lights, glazed each with a single pane of rough green plate, are also introduced into the front parts of the roofs, giving light to the interior, which is fitted up in its two divisions with new and powerful machinery. Each interior consists of two parts; the killing part in front, communicating with the sheep and cattle house behind. The rear terminates with a small court, enclosed by a stone half-wall, and having an issue to the back parts where the animals are admitted. The killing booth is flagged over with grooved scuppers at the back wall for the escape of moisture, the blood being saved in pails. In the centre rises a strong crane with toothed pinions and crank, for elevating the carcases to hooks (of which there are ten to each booth, suspended from iron beams) for the purpose of being dressed, and for lowering them upon the carts, which, in consequence of the front doors being constructed to rise vertically, instead of opening with leaves, can be passed right into the booths. Some of the smaller blocks of building on the east of the enclosure are turned at right angles to the principal buildings, but partly fitted up in conformity with the above: partly, however, they are devoted to the purpose of a store-house; and at the south-east angle a large court is entered, in which are the pig-killing houses, fitted up with furnace-boilers, and iron plotting troughs; whilst, adjoining these, accommodation is provided for the triperies. At the rear of the main line of killing blocks, are the weigh-house apartments; adjoining which, at a back exit to the dung wharf of the Union Canal (an opening to which will be cut in the wall), are the liquid manure tanks of 12 feet square, arched over, and capable of containing from 7,000 to 8,000 gallons; and the dung stance. Slaughter-houses extend over about another acre of the Lochrin grounds to the south; now, however, under lease of about four years' duration; so that, if requisite at the end of that time, the buildings are capable of, at least, one-fourth greater extension. There is a large iron tank near the entrance to the pig-killing booths, for the general supply of water to the establishment. It is raised on masonry to the elevation of the principal buildings, and capable of being constantly charged with 16,000 gallons of water; which will be conducted into each booth apart.

TIMBER AND EMIGRATION.

Lately meeting with the following paragraph, and not knowing whether the assertion it contains be a well-ascertained fact, I venture to ask you, or some of your readers connected with *woodcraft*, to put me out of doubt. The writer says:—

The Timber of the Mulberry.—Mr. Evelyn, in his *Sylva*, says that the timber of the mulberry-tree (*morus*) will last in water as long as the most solid oak; and that it suffers no kind of vermin to breed on it, whether standing or felled; nor does it harbour any caterpillar, except the silkworm.—*Darwin's Principia Botanica*.

I also stumbled over another piece of information, which may be of use to your readers, and therefore worth transferring to your valuable paper. The following is the paragraph in question:—

A Monster Forest.—"Mr. Trigg reports, with particular reference to mahogany (Australian), of which he appears to have considerable practical knowledge, that on leaving the Swan and Canning rivers, and exploring the mountain range near Rushy Stream, he found mahogany forests of four miles in depth, which are known to extend for a length of 140 miles, or to cover an area of 358,400 acres, giving timber enough to build 18,000 line-of-battle ships, or twenty British navies!"—*Western Australia, by John Buckton*.

A year or two ago, a project was talked of, for forming a company to fell the timber above mentioned, and export it to this and other countries. Do you happen to know whether the undertaking was abandoned or not?

Australian timber leads to emigration to Australia. On this subject I will, profiting by the occasion of writing, with your leave, say a word or two.

It is a common complaint, that persons of education, or accustomed to society more refined than that of the generality of working men, are, in consequence, deterred from emigrating; or, if they do so, become dissatisfied, and return to England. Would not Mrs. Chisholm's plan of *family colonisation* in a great degree be a remedy for the evil complained of? Ten heads of families, possessing capital, might not only form a *tything*, for the purposes of the voyage to Australia, but for the advantages of society and neighbourhood, and friendship, and perhaps of *partnership* in farming or commercial pursuits, in the colony in which they should settle.

TECHNICUS.

Finsbury Park.—In answer to a previous inquiry, we may state that the late Government had prepared the plans, given the necessary notices, and made everything ready for bringing the Bill for this park into Parliament early this session. Everything now, of course, remains in abeyance till the present Government take up the project.

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